

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

To : Federally Qualified Health Centers, Nurse Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Physician Clinics, Physicians, Rural Health Clinics, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Changes to Reimbursement for Claims Submitted with the Health Professional Shortage Area-Enhanced Reimbursement Modifier

Implementation of ForwardHealth interChange

In November 2008, the Department of Health Services (DHS) will implement ForwardHealth interChange, which replaces Wisconsin's existing Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS). ForwardHealth interChange will be supported as part of the State's new fiscal agent contract with EDS. With ForwardHealth interChange, providers and trading partners will have more ways to verify member enrollment and submit electronic claims, adjustments, and prior authorization requests through the secure ForwardHealth Portal. Refer to the March 2008 *ForwardHealth Update* (2008-24), titled "Introducing ForwardHealth interChange, a New Web-Based Information System for State Health Care Programs," for an overview of the implementation and a more detailed outline of the many business process enhancements and added benefits the new system and fiscal agent contract will provide.

Health Professional Shortage Area-Enhanced Reimbursement Modifier

Currently, details on a claim will be denied if a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)-enhanced reimbursement modifier is indicated inappropriately, such as when the member or provider is not HPSA

eligible. To be reimbursed, providers may resubmit the claim or submit an adjustment to the claim.

Effective with implementation of ForwardHealth interChange, claims submitted with the HPSA-enhanced reimbursement modifier indicated on details will no longer be denied if the modifier is billed inappropriately. Providers who submit claims for the HPSA-enhanced reimbursement inappropriately will be reimbursed the lesser of the provider's usual and customary fee or the maximum allowable fee and will no longer have to re-submit the claim, assuming that all other ForwardHealth policies are followed. The enhanced reimbursement amount will not be paid when the HPSA modifier is submitted but the provider or member is not eligible for HPSA designation.

Information Regarding Managed Care

This *Update* contains only our fee-for-service policy and applies to services members receive on a fee-for-service basis. For managed care policy, contact the appropriate managed care organization. HMOs are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

The *ForwardHealth Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program are administered by the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability, Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The Wisconsin Well Woman Program is administered by the Division of Public Health, Wisconsin DHS.

For questions, call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or visit our Web site at dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/.

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